

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1827 – HB 1903

February 6, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Adds “dental hygiene assessment” to the scope of practice for dental hygienists. Authorizes dental hygienists to perform a dental hygiene assessment prior to examination by the supervising dentist, including extra oral or intra oral radiographs, charting, and preventive care. Denotes a live, interactive webinar as in-person continuing education.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 63-5-107(c)(1) currently prohibits dental hygienists from earning more than 50 percent of the required continuing education hours from web-based courses. However, the proposed legislation designates “live, interactive webinars” as in-person education.
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 63-5-109(15) and § 63-5-109(16) currently allows licensed dental hygienists to apply sealants and topical fluoride to teeth in a setting under the direction of a state or local health department without an evaluation by a dentist prior to the application if it is being performed under protocol established by the state or metropolitan health departments. The proposed legislation would delete this section. However, under the proposed legislation, applying sealants and topical fluoride to teeth prior to an evaluation by a dentist is encompassed in the “dental hygiene assessment” scope of practice for dental hygienists. Therefore, the dental hygienist does not lose this ability with the deletion of this section.
- The proposed legislation does not require any additional training or resources; therefore, it can be enforced without any significant fiscal impact to state or local governments.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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